



Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever
Badge 1417 Badge 2806

July 2008

Independence Day Safety

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Fireworks Safety

The Fourth of July just would not be the same without those breathtaking fireworks. However, those beautiful fireworks can turn your holiday into a tragedy within seconds. Many people are injured each year in Fairfax County due to fireworks. Some are injured seriously and left with permanent damage.

Any firework which explodes, emits a flame or sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is prohibited by the Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code. A permit is required for the sale of all fireworks, and these permits are only valid from June 1 to July 15 of each year.

Many fireworks are not available in Northern Virginia because they are illegal. Firecrackers, cherry bombs and skyrockets are just a few examples of fireworks which may be purchased in other areas, but are illegal here. Since even the possession of unapproved fireworks is prohibited in Fairfax County, such fireworks will be confiscated and the person possessing them can be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. This carries a maximum penalty of a \$2,500 fine and/or one year in jail.

Permissible fireworks include sparklers, fountains, Pharaoh's serpents, caps for pistols, or pinwheels commonly known as whirligigs or spinning jennies.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Events of Interest

**Friday July 4-
Independence Day**



Please adhere to the following safety tips:

- When displaying legally purchased, approved fireworks, place them on a flat surface, clear of any combustible material and clear of all buildings.
- Keep all bystanders at least 25 feet away from fireworks.
- Read the directions.
- Do not permit young children to handle or light fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Sparklers can be very dangerous and account for the majority of injuries. Pieces can break off and burn bystanders.
- Young children should not use sparklers as these can attain a temperature as high as 1800 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place.

Please have a safe Fourth of July and stay away from dangerous and illegal fireworks.

Remember that there are many public displays available that offer a safe way to view fireworks. If you have any questions about fireworks, contact the Fire Prevention Division at (703) 246-4849 or the Public Affairs and Life Safety Education Section at (703) 246-3801 or TTY 711.

2008 Public Fireworks Display

Public fireworks displays will take place at various locations throughout Fairfax County over the Fourth of July weekend. Locations include the following:

July 3, 2008

Belle Haven Country Club 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA

Chantilly National Golf Club 14901 Braddock Road, Centreville, VA

July 4, 2008

International Town Country Club 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA

Lake Fairfax Park 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA

River Bend Golf and Country Club 375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Langley High School 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA

Vienna Elementary School 128 Center Street, Vienna, VA

Lake Barcroft Association Beach 3 Waterway Drive, Falls Church, VA

Lee District Park 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA

Country Club of Fairfax 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA

Westwood Country Club 800 Maple Avenue, Vienna, VA

Springfield Golf and Country Club 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA

Mt. Vernon Estates 3300 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria, VA



In Memoriam



Charger

Charger, a Fairfax County Police Bloodhound, passed away on June 13 from cancer. He was on his final walk through the woods near his home with his faithful handler by his side. Charger was 6 years old.

Charger was born on February 23, 2002 in Pont Rouge, Quebec, Canada. He came to Fairfax County in May of that same year and started his training a month later. Charger and his sister, Molly, were the county's first bloodhounds. Charger's new police family was primarily responsible for his initial training. The Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Department and Maryland State Police K9 units, with assistance from The Law Enforcement Bloodhound Association provided additional training, which lasted for almost a year. Charger's main responsibility was to find people; those who were lost and those who had committed crimes.

Charger and his human partner, Lieutenant Pat Ronan, responded to hundreds of calls for service. One of the most memorable tracks was of a suspected rapist. Charger led Lieutenant Ronan and patrol officers to an apartment where the suspect was located and eventually arrested.

Charger's favorite toy was a little red ball; shake the ball and a light would glow inside. He loved to chase the little red ball that glowed. His favorite treats were Alpo dog treats; his reward for a job well done. For all of the great things he did, he was still a dog and chewed everything in sight. Somehow, that was ok with Lieutenant Ronan. Charger was a very special friend, companion and dedicated police K9, he will be missed.



By MPO W. M. Brock

Now that summer is here, I will bet that you are riding your bicycle, if you have one. Due to the fact that gas prices are soaring, a little pedal power may also save you some money. With the increased use of bicycles, the police department is noticing a rise in bicycle thefts.

Did you know that by doing a few simple things, you can help reduce the risk of your bicycle being stolen? Here are some crime prevention tips to put into use:

- ☞ **Lock it up!** A bicycle lock is an inexpensive investment compared to your bicycle. Use a U-type lock for maximum security. By locking it up, you are creating a, “roadblock” for a would-be thief. Theft is a crime of opportunity.
- ☞ **Use two locks.** One is far better than none, but having two different style locks (chain and U-type) will slow a thief even more. The thief will need two sets of tools to defeat your security.
- ☞ **Do not leave bicycle unattended, even in your own yard.** Many thefts occur right out of your own yard. Being at home makes us feel safe. This may lead us to dropping our guard. Always, “lock it up!” Whether you lock it to a stationary object or lock it in a shed or garage.
- ☞ **Away from home, choose a parking location visible to passersby.** Your bicycle is more likely to be a target if it is parked in a remote location.
- ☞ **Do not park outside overnight.** Try to bring the bicycle inside, as darkness and isolation may make your bicycle a target, even if it is locked to a stationary object.
- ☞ **For bicycles with quick-release wheels, lock both wheels and the frame to a secure structure.** This does two things; it slows a thief down and it also prevents parts from being stolen from your bicycle.
- ☞ **Remove easily detached items, such as packs, pumps and lights, before leaving a bicycle unattended.**
- ☞ **Record the serial number for your bicycle and keep it in a safe place.**

These are just a few tips. Hopefully if you practice them, you will not become a victim to theft. These tips can also be applied to scooters and mopeds.



Shopping Safety

By MPO W. M. Brock and PFC P. B. Katinsky



Here are a few tips to follow in order to make your shopping experiences safe ones:

- ☞ While shopping at a grocery, retail, or any other type of store keep your purse or wallet with you at all times.
- ☞ Never leave your purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart or at the register, even for a few minutes.
- ☞ If your purse zips or snaps shut, please practice using these features.
- ☞ Never leave a child unattended in a shopping cart.
- ☞ Keep your purse or wallet with you while loading/unloading items into your vehicle.
- ☞ Always be aware of your surroundings. If you feel something is not right or you are being followed, move quickly to a populated area of the store or mall.
- ☞ Conceal credit cards while standing in line. Many times the number can be seen or photographed (camera phone) by someone standing behind or across from you.
- ☞ Keep a record of all Credit/Debit cards including phone numbers for the issuing companies somewhere OTHER than your purse or wallet in case they are stolen.
- ☞ If your purse or wallet is stolen cancel all cards immediately and call the police.
- ☞ Do not pull up to the curb and leave your vehicle running or keys in the ignition while you load your groceries.

Most women keep their purse in the child seating portion of their shopping cart. Many times the purse is open. A common ruse suspects will use is to ask an unsuspecting shopper to hand them an item that may be on the shelf behind the shoppers cart. While the shopper turns their back, the suspect lifts the shoppers wallet from the purse. This usually is not discovered until the shopper gets in the check out line and goes to pay for their purchase. By then...the thief is long gone.



DANGER

Pets Die in Hot Cars!



If you see a pet in a parked car, report it **Immediately!**
It could **SAVE the pet's **LIFE!****

Leaving your pet unattended in a parked car on a warm day can lead to the pet's death. When the temperature outside reaches 70 degrees, the temperature inside your car can climb to 120 degrees within minutes – even with the windows cracked.

A pet does not perspire the way a human does. A dog's tongue is his cooling system – which is why he pants. With only HOT air to breathe your dog will suffer permanent brain damage within minutes. If your pet is left in your car even longer he will die an agonizing death.

In Fairfax County it is illegal to leave an animal in a vehicle during warm weather. The law allows any law enforcement officer to seize any animal that has been cruelly treated or is suffering from a condition that constitutes a direct and immediate threat to its life, safety or health.

A person convicted of animal cruelty could face up to five years in prison and/or be fined up to \$2500.

If you witness a pet left unattended in a parked car on a warm day, this is what you should do:

- ☞ Record pertinent information about the vehicle (make, model, color and license plate number) along with its exact location.
- ☞ Call the Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number 703-691-2131.
- ☞ If possible, stay at the location until law enforcement arrives so that you can help them locate the car quickly.

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

Next available dates: Thursday, July 3, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 10, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 17, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 24, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 31, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) will be on break until September.



Traffic Trivia



By MPO W. M. Brock

In this month's issue of Traffic Trivia, I bring up a roadway sign that seems to baffle drivers. It is the yield sign. From my observations, it appears that most people have no clue what the sign represents. Furthermore, they appear to have no idea what they are supposed to do when they approach one. I hope to enlighten these wayward drivers with this review.

The yield sign is commonly seen at intersections and merge areas. If you approach a yield sign, this means simply that you **DO NOT** have the right-of-way. At this point, you need to slow down to a speed reasonable for the conditions, in order to merge with other traffic, giving them the right-of-way. If the merge can not be made safely by slowing, you must bring your vehicle to a stop if necessary. Yes, I said **STOP**.

I do not know how many times I have almost been hit by drivers that neglect to recognize or acknowledge that they do not have the right-of-way. Some of this is due to a driver's lack of knowledge and some instances are associated with aggressive driving. No matter what the cause, a driver can be ticketed for failing to yield the right-of-way or failing to obey a highway sign. In extreme circumstances, a charge of reckless driving may be more appropriate.

Code of Virginia

46.2-821. Vehicles before entering certain highways shall stop or yield right-of-way.

The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection on a highway controlled by a stop sign shall, immediately before entering such intersection, stop at a clearly marked stop line, or, in the absence of a stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, in the absence of a marked crosswalk, stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway. Before proceeding, he shall yield the right-of-way to the driver of any vehicle approaching on such other highway from either direction.

Where a "Yield Right-of-Way" sign is posted, the driver of a vehicle approaching or entering such intersection shall slow down to a speed reasonable for the existing conditions, yield the right-of-way to the driver of another vehicle approaching or entering such intersection from another direction, and, if required for safety, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, or, in the absence of a stop line, stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway, and shall yield the right-of-way to the driver of any vehicle approaching on such other highway from either direction.

(Code 1950, §§ 46-238, 46-255; 1952, c. 666; 1954, c. 137; 1956, c. 533; 1958, c. 541, §§ 46.1-221, 46.1-247; 1972, c. 489; 1974, c. 347; 1976, c. 314; 1985, c. 218; 1989, c. 727.)

§ 46.2-830. Uniform marking and signing of highways; drivers to obey signs; enforcement of section.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board may classify, designate, and mark state highways and provide a uniform system of marking and signing such highways under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. Such system of marking and signing shall correlate with and, so far as possible, conform to the system adopted in other states.

All drivers of vehicles shall obey lawfully erected signs.

No provision of this section relating to the prohibition of disobeying signs or violating local traffic signals, markings, and lights shall be enforced against an alleged violator if, at the time and place of the alleged violation, any such sign, signal, marking, or light is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person.

(Code 1950, § 46-184; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-173; 1970, c. 163; 1981, c. 585; 1989, c. 727; 1994, c. 280; 1997, c. 881.)



National Night Out

August 5, 2008



Fairfax County Police

National Night Out

Community Registration

Name Of Community: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone and Email: _____

Exact Location of Event : _____

Time Start _____

Time End _____

Type of Activities : (Circle All That Apply)

Cook Out Ice Cream Social Lights On Music Games

Crime Prevention Information Neighborhood Watch Recruitment

Meet your Neighbor (Name Tags) Block Party Other

Please complete and return this form to MPO W. M. Brock or PFC P. B. Katinsky by July 31, 2008. You can either send it by U.S. Postal Service or e-mail.

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, VA 20151

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone 703-814-7000
Fax 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaambersalert.com>

Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

Fairfax County Crime Solvers :
1-866-411-TIPS

Fairfax County Police
Non-Emergency:
703-691-2131

Sully District Crime Prevention
Office:
703-814-7018
Or
703-814-7048

Child Car Seat Installation:
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

Citizen Reporting System
(to file reports only)
703-691-2131



- ☞ **Are you over 55 years old?**
- ☞ **Are you concerned about crime and security issues in your community?**
- ☞ **Would you like to help police focus their efforts on issues that matter to YOU?**

You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. Chapters are now being formed in each police district across the county. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical region. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

Triad is a three-pronged approach between law enforcement, senior citizens, and service providers to address crime prevention for seniors. The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community. There are currently 89 local Triad agreements encompassing 225 cities, counties and towns within Virginia.

Participants will play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Make sure your voice is heard. Volunteer today! We really need your support to get this program off of the ground.

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at wbrock1@fairfaxcounty.gov or pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock